

# White Sands National Monument

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING FOR FEE CHANGE OCTOBER 2006

Established on January 18, 1933, White Sands National Monument preserves a portion of the world's largest gypsum sand dune field. Gypsum is a common mineral, but rarely found in pure surface deposits as it is here. The monument encompasses 225 square miles or 144,000 acres, and is the largest National Park Service unit in New Mexico. It is also the most highly visited unit of the National Park Service in New Mexico.

### RECREATION FEE PROGRAM

The National Park Service is beset by financial difficulties brought about by unfunded infrastructure repair and rising operating costs. To help the NPS deal with these problems, Congress authorized the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act in 2004. The program permits Parks to charge fees and to retain 80% of all fees it collects.

The Recreation Enhancement Act and its predecessor, the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program, have had a tremendously beneficial impact on our ability to make improvements to visitor services, protection of resources, and to address the park's aging infrastructure and deferred maintenance backlog. **By law, fee revenue cannot be used for park operations**

**Some of the projects completed at White Sands National Monument since inception of the program include:**



#### Picnic Shelter Replacements

**\$128,000**

#### Patio Restoration

**\$110,000**





### **Vault Toilet Replacement**

**\$305,000**

### **Water Line Replacement**

**\$543,000**



### **Shade Ramada**

**\$20,000**

### **Exotic Species Removal**

**\$194,000**



### **Interdune Boardwalk Replacement**

**\$243,000**

### **Evening Program Trailer Replacement**

**\$46,000**



Future projects will be undertaken as funding becomes available.

## **America's Public Land**

The future of these public lands rests with all American citizens. The actions we take today will reflect the price we are willing to pay to pass these lands on to future generations, protected and in better health. We need and welcome your support. Thank you.



**UserFee**

